

## Samuel Gompers Is Guest Of Local Labor Unions at Receptions and Banquets

**Veteran Head of Organized Labor in the United States  
Urges Better Organization to Guard Against Certain  
Attempt to Cut Wages After European War Is Over—  
Building Trades Council Entertains.**

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, was in Cincinnati Tuesday afternoon and night and the veteran head of organized labor in the United States was busy almost every hour of the time.

In the afternoon he addressed the convention of Stationary Firemen at Cosmopolitan Hall; early in the evening he was the guest and principal speaker at a reception by the Central Labor Council and later was the guest at a banquet given by the Building Trades Council at its headquarters, Twelfth and Walnut streets.

The keynote of Mr. Gompers' speeches and private conversations was that while labor was fairly prosperous at this time, owing to the large number of war orders in many lines from Europe, a stagnation of business and a consequent lessened demand for labor is certain to follow the close of the war. For this reason Mr. Gompers urged labor unions to so strengthen their organizations now that they would be in position to better safeguard their interests when the pressure was brought to bear on them by employers later.

Speaking at the Firemen's Convention, Mr. Gompers said, in referring to the effects the war will have on labor:

### Predicts Wage Reductions.

"When the war in the foreign countries is over merchants of this country are going to take advantage of the fact and you union men must make preparations to prevent any reduction in wages, which, in my estimation, will be made by employers. Work at present is plentiful because the merchants and manufacturers of the United States are exporting not only munitions of war, but provisions, such as meat, cattle, grain, agricultural implements, horses and other necessities.

"When the war is over," he added, "there is bound to be a stagnation of business in this country and labor will be cheap. The work of the laborer is being extended at present and when the crisis comes we have to be prepared to fight and as thoroughly united as an army. It is a certainty that wages will be reduced or an attempt will be made to reduce them, because there will surely be a business depression, and if we are not strong enough to fight for our rights it will be a long time before we will regain the salaries we are getting at present."

Gompers urged the firemen to stand with the union engineers in order to strengthen their organization. Other speakers at the meeting were Matthew Comerford, National President of the Stationary Engineers' Union, and David Evans, Business Agent.

### Urges Organization.

He urged the union men to strengthen their organizations while the war in Europe is in progress, stating that when the war is over there will be another panic in the United States, which will be greater than the one of 1907.

Last night President Gompers was the guest and principal speaker at the Central Labor Council. He spoke of the

labor conditions in general throughout the United States, saying that unions are stronger at present than they have been for the past 25 years.

In speaking of the Eastland and Titanic disasters he said that if the seamen's bill had been in effect the lives of the passengers would not have been lost.

Gompers also criticized the local Carpenters' Union for withdrawing from the Central Labor Council, stating that if the carpenters had remained affiliated with the central body it would have helped strengthen organized labor in this city. He then told of his start in unionism, saying that he became a union man in Pittsburgh in 1886, and has ever been faithful to the cause since that time.

Among those present besides the guest of honor were: Joseph Cullen, Frank Rist, editor of The Chronicle; Tom Anderson, John D. Frye, James Wilson, Joseph Proebstle, Matthew Comerford, Charles Wirmel, W. E. Myers, editor of the Labor Advocate; William Gustin, Thomas Mugavin, Thomas McManus, Doc Mullen, Jerry Sullivan, Herbert Marshall, William G. Shea, M. Radke, William Ryan, Joseph Bruner, Henry Ott, Thomas J. Donnelly, Guy Hecker, Jacob Kunzelman, J. Modest, Ernest Weir, David Evans, Thomas McEwen, Jerry Doud, Phil Gasdorf.

### Writes President Wilson.

While President Gompers was in the city a copy of a letter he had sent to President Wilson urging that the Federal investigation of the Eastland disaster at Chicago be conducted by a commission of fair-minded citizens, was made public. In this letter President Gompers said:

"Since all our inspection agencies have proved woefully inadequate, would it not be a travesty of justice to permit an investigation of the Eastland horrors to be made by the inspection officials who are in some degree at least responsible for the disaster that has taken place? In this connection also let me urge upon your attention how completely the Eastland disaster refutes all of the arguments that have been urged to bring out amendment or repeal the seamen's act. If, as a nation, we have regard for the value and sacredness of human life, if we esteem human beings higher than property or property interests we shall insist that the seamen's act shall not only not be weakened, but shall be strengthened in order to provide greater security for future water traffic or traveling."

### Charge Against Inspectors.

The letter states that the attention of the Government had been drawn to serious charges against inspectors on the Great Lakes by the Chicago Federation of Labor, which also reported overcrowding of excursion steamers on the lakes.

"There is a vicious circle which virtually renders ineffective regulations and legislation that is entrusted to inspectors," the letter adds. "A mysterious influence has always operated for the elimination of all inspectors who perform their duty without regard for the favor of shipping interests."

### BUTCHERS ORGANIZE.

Tacoma, Wash.—Butchers in this city have organized and affiliated to the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America.

### OPPOSE SUNDAY WORK.

Sacramento, Cal.—The Barbers' Union is opposing Sunday labor and propose picketing several shops whose proprietors believe in ceaseless toil.

### BREWERY WORKERS ADVANCE.

Baltimore.—Brewery workers have destroyed the possibility of a solid line up against their new scale by the American Brewing Company signing the new three-year contract. Wages of brew workers and drivers are increased \$1 a week. Bottlers will be granted an eight-hour day and engineers and firemen are given a ten-day's vacation annually.

## LOST MARRIAGE LICENSE

**But Guy Hecker Held On To Document Until the Nuptial Knot Was Tied.**

Guy Hecker, of the Electrical Workers, came very nearly being short circuited in his attempt to get married Thursday, but finally made the proper connection.

Hecker had procured a license to marry Miss Delia Nolan, which he did, the Rev. Haefner performing the ceremony. After the wedding, Guy was not as careful of the license as he had been before the ceremony, and lost it. It was found by George Schick of 152 West McMillan street, who immediately got busy to find the owner, so that Hecker's execution might not be delayed.

Schick made inquiries at the Building Trades Council and was told that Hecker already had been wired and the lights turned on. When Hecker later turned up at headquarters he had to "buy for the bunch," and in turn was presented with a kitchen cabinet by the Building Trades Council and a purse of gold by his friends.

The presentation was made by Patrick McHugh.

## Carmen Hear Interesting Labor Talks

By CHARLES H. SAMPSON.

The first regular meeting in August was called to order by President Jones, on the 5th, at 9:30 a. m. Roll call showed all officers present. Minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

Twenty-nine applications were presented and elected. Bills were read and ordered paid.

The auditor's quarterly report was presented and adopted.

The Picnic Committee made its report on cash received from July 15 to August 5 for sale of picnic tickets. Report was ordered received.

Under the head of Reports of Delegates, Brothers Smith, Haebrock, Jones, Ross and Boyden reported upon conditions existing throughout the city as reported in Central Labor Council. It was also reported that Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, made quite an instructive and interesting address before the Central Council, Tuesday evening, August 3.

Under the head of New Business and Welfare of the Division, several very good talks were made. It certainly is gratifying to hear the membership get upon the floor and express their opinion.

### Makes Closing Address.

The closing address was made by Brother George Gray, Executive Board member, from Hartwell Station, and is in part as follows:

"Mr. Chairman and Brother Members: It is not often that I take the floor to make a lengthy talk, but this morning, while sitting here and listening to the men around me express their views upon various matters pertaining to our labors, our city, State and country, I could not help but compare the state of affairs that exists now with the conditions that existed three years ago.

"At that time I believed that men had the right to organize, but I must confess that I did not realize the great benefits to be derived from organized labor. At that time we had a body of unorganized men operating the cars in this city. One man did not know the other, and apparently did not care to become acquainted. We looked upon the man from another station as a stranger, and was not interested in his welfare.

"We saw him today working upon his car; tomorrow he was gone. If we had seen him on one particular run for a year or so we might notice his absence in a casual way, but we never thought to inquire what had become of him. In fact, we did not care, because we were only interested in staying on the job ourselves. Today that condition is changed. We meet in this hall, we discuss conditions, and if a man meets with reverses and is in bad circumstances, or he has been unjustly dealt with and it can be proven that a mistake has been made in dealing with his case, we stand one and all ready to extend to him a helping hand and treat him as a brother.

### Are Not Selfish.

"This is as it should be. We should not be selfish and live within ourselves exclusively, but we should be in touch with our fellowman, know what ails him,

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## Western and Southern Life Taken Off Unfair List by Building Trades Council

**Local Insurance Company Reinstated to Fair List—Action  
Meets Approval of Workers Who Hold or Want to  
Take Out Policies—Regular Weekly Meeting of  
Council Held—Business Reported Fair.**

The Building Trades Council, at its regular weekly meeting, Thursday night, took the wise step, which it should have taken many weeks ago, of taking the Western and Southern Life Insurance Company off the unfair list and reinstating it as fair to union labor.

It is extremely doubtful if the Western and Southern ever should have been drawn into the jurisdictional controversy among the trade unionists which led to its being declared unfair. The fight between the unionists was trivial and should have been settled among themselves and the contractor without bringing the employing company into the fight. It was the contractor, if any one, not the insurance company, which was at fault.

The action of the council came as a relief to many union workers who are carrying policies in the Western and Southern and who were on the eve of being forced to cancel their insurance.

It also was a relief to many others who desire to take out policies in this company as soon as they could do so in justice to their fellow workers.

President Cullen being ill and Vice-President Fischer away on his vacation, the meeting was called to order by Acting Secretary Tom Anderson, and Edward Lane was elected chairman.

A communication was received from Thomas J. Donnelly, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, containing a call for the annual convention of the Federation which will meet at Mansfield, O., beginning Monday, October 11.

A communication from the Building Trades Council of Portland, Ore., regarding elevator construction which involves electrical workers, steamfitters, iron workers, machinists and plumbers, was laid over until the next meeting.

The Labor Day Committee reported progress and business agents reported business fair.

### TO URGE "SAFETY FIRST."

San Francisco.—A committee, of which Coroner Leland is chairman, is drawing up safety regulations for elevators. This committee is co-operating with the State Industrial Accident Commission in its "safety first" campaign. Other committees are considering safety rules for boilers and engines.

### AGAINST TENEMENT LABOR.

Albany, N. Y.—A committee of the State Constitutional Convention favors an amendment to the organic act prohibiting the manufacture of goods in New York City tenements. This amendment would leave no doubt as to the police power of the state to handle this question.

### GRANTED WAGE INCREASE.

Fall River, Mass.—The strike of plumbers and steamfitters has ended, the employers signing the new agreement which gives the journeymen and their helpers an advance in wages, the union shop and better working conditions. The strikers were away from the shops a week, and the minimum rate to be paid to the journeymen will be \$3.50 for an eight-hour day.

## Widow Gets Award From Gas Company

Columbus, O.—An award of \$2,550 was ordered Wednesday by the State Industrial Commission for the widow and daughters of Daniel Fanning, of Highland avenue, Cincinnati. Fanning was an employee of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. He was injured in January, 1914, and died last December. As the company carries its own risk under the Workmen's Compensation law, it must pay the award as ordered by the Commission.

Nearly \$5,000 in State compensation was awarded by the Commission today as the result of elevator accidents. To Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, of Youngstown, parents of seventeen-year-old Thomas Morgan, who was crushed in the elevator of the Vindicator Publishing Company, June 14, 1915, the Commission gave \$1,872, to be paid in weekly installments of \$6. The sum of \$3,120 was given by the Commission to Mrs. Bessie V. Schamp, Akron, widow of Richard Schamp, who was killed July 3, 1915, in the elevator of the Schaefer-Black Company, Akron. This will be paid in weekly sums of \$10.

Mrs. Nettie Welch, of Rogers, Columbiana County, received an award from the Commission of \$1,694, for the death of her husband, Edward J. Welch, an employee of the Elk Run Company, who was killed by a fall of dirt on July 14, 1915.

## Union Labor Organizes to Fight Drys

That the union men of Cincinnati will not see thousands of their fellow workers thrown out of positions in trades in which they have spent their lives by the wave of temperance sentiment in Ohio without protest, was shown Thursday night.

An organization called the Hamilton County Home Rule League was formed and it will at once begin to combat the forces of the prohibitionists.

Thomas McManus, president of Central Labor Council, was elected chairman; Joseph Bruner, secretary, and William Lichte, treasurer. Headquarters will be established at 1408 Walnut street. About September 1 an active campaign of speaking will be begun by the trade unionists of the city.

### EIGHT-HOUR WORK DAY

Granted By Shops in New York, Machinists' Official Says.

New York.—J. J. Keppler, Vice-President of the International Association of Machinists, announced Wednesday that five shops in the New York district, employing in all trades about 3,000 persons, had granted the eight-hour workday and a general increase in wages. The names of these five shops, Keppler said, were withheld at the request of the employers, but may be made public later when the general campaign that has been instituted by the machinists for the eight-hour day is further advanced.

William H. Johnston, International President of the Machinists, who arrived today from Washington, was in consultation with officers of the local unions, and a conference, at which President Johnston will meet the general organizers from all New England States, will be held at Hartford, Conn., Sunday. This conference will be followed by similar meetings in different parts of the district each week.

The situation, with respect to the Garvin machine shops here, where several hundred men are out, and the Bliss plant in Brooklyn, where negotiations are in progress, is unchanged, Keppler asserted.

"The net result to date of the eight-hour campaign that was begun at Bridgeport," said Keppler, "is that thousands of working men and women have been benefited throughout the Eastern States with increased wages and better hours. While comparatively only a small number of these persons are machinists, the employees in other branches of work where machinists are employed are sharing in the benefits of the campaign of our organization."

### LADIES TO HOLD RAFFLE

The Ladies' Auxiliary No. 5, of Plumbers' Union No. 59, will hold a grand raffle at the picnic of the Plumbers' Union at Avoca Park, August 15. The following prizes have been donated:

Bath tub, Walter Mullen; shower bath, Andrew J. Murphy; wash stand, Thomas J. Dyer.

### FISCHER ON VACATION

Vice-President Phil Fischer of the Building Trades Council, is away on a two weeks' vacation. Mr. Fischer is among the Northern lakes. As no word has been received from him, it is assumed that he is saving all his fish stories to relate verbally when he returns.